

GROVER CLEVELAND  
HERALD

Volume 32, Number 2

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



Happy  
Hanukkah



Happy Kwanzaa



Merry Christmas

# FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

**Dear Students, Parents and Staff:**

The Holiday Season is upon us. What does this mean? It can mean something different to each of us. It can be a time for celebration, a time for reflection, or a time of sadness. At Grover Cleveland High School, our motto, "Unity in Diversity," means that together we can make a difference; we are stronger as a community, and we are not alone.



Margaret Mead has said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Give some thought to what you experience every day. Are your days organized, rewarding, challenging, and fruitful? What do you do to make your vision a reality? What can you do to help make Grover Cleveland a safe and secure community?

*I wish all of you a safe and rewarding holiday season and a wonderful New Year!*

**Dominick Scarola, Principal**  
Grover Cleveland High School

**Grover Cleveland Herald**

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*The Grover Cleveland Herald* is composed of stories about the students and activities of Grover Cleveland H. S. We ask students their opinions about current issues and hope to provide a forum of communication for school.



THE GROVER  
CLEVELAND  
HERALD  
WISHES THE  
STUDENTS,  
PARENTS & STAFF  
A BRIGHT AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
AS WE NEAR A NEW  
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TOGETHER



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*Revelers scare up a ghost at the Boo Bash Halloween Dance.*

## Council For Unity visits Sing Sing Prison

By: Rangelly Disca and Jennifer Santiago

Grover Cleveland High School's Council for Unity class, escorted by Mr. Pappas, attended a field trip to Sing Sing Prison on October 22. The purpose of the trip was to speak and interact with the prisoners and learn how they could end up if they follow the wrong path and break the law.

The prison is located in upstate New York right past the old-fashioned town of Sleepy Hollow. When we arrived at the prison facility, the guards were very direct. They went over certain rules and regulations for our safety. One of the guards gave us a personal tour. We looked inside the cells and witnessed the horrid conditions in which the inmates lived.

Students had a chance to see the showers, taste the food, and spend quality time with inmates who were also members of Council for Unity. The food included spaghetti and meatballs and fruit punch. In addition, a single piece of fruit was placed in a small jar with water. The juice tasted like water except that it had color. The prisoners had only 10 to 15 minutes to eat. The walls were gray, and the air was very hot and muggy. The cells where the prisoners lived were very small. They included a bed, a toilet, and a sink. The cells seemed crowded.

We met with inmates. There were Frankie, Ralphy, Spanky, Bill, Tony, and Smallz. The inmates told us their stories about why they were arrested and previous crimes they had committed. Some were in prison for felony murder and others for using and selling drugs. Ralphy, for example, told us his story about how he had a best friend, a woman who was being abused by her husband. Ralphy reached a point where he was tired of this abuse and confronted the husband. Ralphy ended up stabbing the guy, and he bled to death.

These prisoners told us that living in Sing Sing Prison is not easy.

"It's like waking up for no reason, like being a caged animal" said Spanky.

Frankie said, "It's easy for you students to come in one day and walk out the same day. Imagine us. Years for us takes an eternity."

Some of these prisoners have three years or more. Some have life.

"It's hard. I regret what I did. I wish I could go back," said Ralphy. He just came out and said this.

We were touched by their stories and everyone got emotional. There was laughter, tears, and serious talk. This trip has changed our whole outlook on life. All the students on the trip were shocked.



Dreams  
By: Samantha Scanna

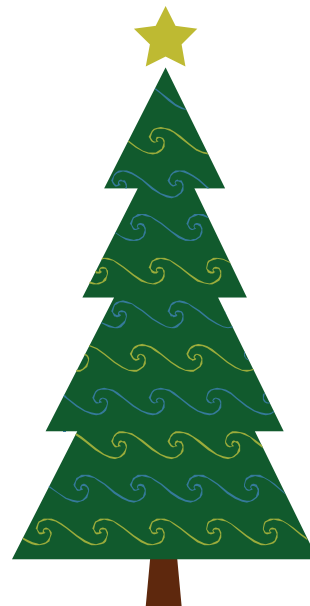
Everybody has dreams,  
Everybody wants to be rich,  
They don't want to be poor.  
Everybody wants a roof over  
their head so they don't have to  
live on the street.  
Everybody wants food on the  
table  
So they don't have to eat off the  
floor.  
Everybody wants clothes on  
their back  
So they have something to wear  
so they  
won't be bare.  
Everybody has dreams,  
Still today people live on the  
street,  
People don't have food on the  
table,  
Dirty clothes that have holes in  
them.  
I feel bad for the kids  
Who have to live on the streets,  
With nothing.  
They eat stuff off the ground.  
So all I got to say is God bless.



*dreidel*



*kikombe cha umoja*



# In Memory of Michael Jackson 1958 - 2009

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By: Marco Cruz

## New York Ricotta Cheesecake

Dish: New York Ricotta Cheesecake  
 Our Chef: Stacey Yanez  
 Preparation Time: 30 minutes  
 Cooking Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

24 oz. cream cheese, softened  
 1 cup extra fine whole milk ricotta cheese (to refine, process in a food processor for 1 minute)  
 ½ cup sour cream  
 1 ½ cup sugar (recommended: *Splenda*)  
 1/3 cup heavy cream  
 1 tablespoon. no sugar added vanilla extract  
 1 tablespoon. fresh lemon juice  
 2 eggs  
 3 egg yolks

Equipment: 1 (8-inch) spring-form cake pan

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Spray the spring-form pan with nonstick vegetable oil cooking spray. Set aside.
- In a shallow roasting pan big enough to fit the cake pan, pour about 1 inch of water and place it on the center rack of the oven to preheat.
- In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the softened cream cheese, the ricotta, the sour cream, and sugar substitute on low speed for 1 minute until well blended. Turn the mixer on medium speed and slowly pour the egg mixture into the cream cheese mixture. Beat just until blended. Be careful not to over whip.
- Pour batter into the greased spring-form pan. Place pan into the heated water bath.
- Bake for 15 minutes, and then lower the oven temperature to 275 degrees F. Continue baking 1 ½ hours, or until top is lightly golden brown and cake is pulling away from the sides of the pan.
- Turn the oven off when finished cooking and leave the cake in the oven to cool for 3 more hours. (This will keep the cake nice and tall.)
- Next, remove cake from oven and refrigerate before serving.
- Serve chilled.

## The Inside Bounce Varsity Basketball 2009

By: Bobby Rivera

As the season creeps closer, the Boys Varsity Basketball Team efforts increase tremendously on and off the court. This season is a very important one for the Tigers as they try to push themselves back into playoff contention. For this to occur, every Tiger's skill set must be available throughout the season. Each team member now realizes that the only way to win is if they each become the very definition of a student athlete.

To prepare for this new season, the Tigers have set up many scrimmages and non-league games. One was recently played against the Bushwick Campus High School team. The game started off badly for the Tigers as they fell ten points behind. They began to rally back, but unfortunately they ended one point shy. Although this one point defeat bothered the team, they used it as a learning experience.

Soon enough, Homecoming arrived, and a much anticipated game. The Tigers played the team from The High School of Applied Communications. Once again, the Tigers started off slowly, despite a loud, celebratory home crowd and were losing by eight points. At half-time, after a spirited and emotional pep talk by Coach Michael Irizarry, the team rallied and played a phenomenal defensive game. With a supportive, jubilant Grover Cleveland crowd, the game ended incredibly as the Tigers managed to maintain a 12 point victory.

"I see some mistakes going on in the game," said Coach Irizarry. "But I'm not mad because they can easily be fixed. This team surprises me though, with the great deal of effort they put out there trying to get that victory any way possible. I feel more excited about the season this year the way things are going. But for now, it's my job to keep pushing them in the right direction, to stay hungry for what's waiting ahead."

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## HOLIDAY TERMS FOUND IN THE WORD PUZZLE

**Christmas:** The celebration of the birth of the Christ child, Jesus, in Bethlehem. The celebration is on December 25.

**Dreidle:** a wooden top spun by children as a game during Hanukkah (*see bottom of page 3 for a picture*).

**Eid al-Adha:** The festival of sacrifice in Islam during December. Family spend time together thankful to have food and shelter.

**Hanukkah:** The Jewish Festival of Lights, an eight day holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

**Kikombe Cha Umoja:** in Kwanzaa, the communal unity cup (*see bottom of page 3 for picture*).

**Kinara:** The candleholder used in Kwanzaa. There are seven candles, each representing a principle for Kwanzaa.

**Kwanzaa:** The celebration of African heritage and culture observed from December 26 through January 1. It was created by Dr. Karenga in 1966 during the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

**Mkeka:** In Kwanzaa, the straw mat that symbolizes knowledge that is the foundation for future generations.

**Menorah:** a nine branch candelabrum used during Hanukkah.

**Mazao:** In Kwanzaa, fruits and vegetables that symbolize the rewards of working together.

**Muhindi:** In Kwanzaa, muhindi or corn is used to symbolize the children or future of the family.

**Noel:** French word for "Christmas."

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# Holiday Word Puzzle



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- By: Rostyslav Yavorskyy
- BELLS
  - CANDLE
  - CELEBRATION
  - CHRISTMAS
  - DECEMBER
  - DREIDEL
  - EGG NOG
  - EID AL-ADHA
  - ELF
  - GIFTS
  - HANUKKAH
  - JINGLE BELLS
  - JOLLY
  - HANUKKAH
  - KIKOMBE CHA
  - UMOJA
  - KINARA
  - KWANZAA
  - MAZAO
  - MENORAH
  - MIRACLE
  - MKEKE
  - MISTLETOE
  - MUHINDI
  - NOEL
  - OIL
  - REINDEER
  - WINTER
  - WREATH
  - YULE LOG
  - ZAWADI



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# Sudoku

By: Lisette Ramos